

# Highway 23 Gap Project

Paynesville to Richmond (North Gap)

## Overview

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Highway 23 is an important interregional corridor that is a key artery for the economy in the region. It provides the primary east-west route connecting Willmar to Interstate 94 and beyond. The segment of Highway 23 between Willmar and Interstate 94 is a distance of approximately 53 miles. Of these 53 miles, all but approximately 15 miles have been constructed as a four lane roadway. The ultimate vision for Highway 23 between Willmar and Interstate 94 is a continuous four-lane rural highway. The segment between Paynesville and Richmond is a part of that vision and is one of two remaining sections of two-lane.

### Benefits

Expanding Highway 23 from two-lanes to four-lanes will provide additional capacity, improve the movement of freight, and improve roadway safety. Expanding the highway would also provide the design consistency of a four-lane rural highway and help meet driver expectancy throughout the corridor. This corridor-wide consistency further enhances the mobility and safety benefits already provided by the expansion.

### Status

In 2014, Highway 23 received funds through the Corridors of Commerce program to complete the environmental review and layout for expanding the segment between Paynesville and Richmond from two-lanes to four-lanes. Once the environmental review and layout are complete, right-of-way acquisition and detail design could begin if funds become available. Currently, there are no plans to construct the four-lane because there is no funding available for the construction at this time. The environmental review and layout development for the Paynesville to Richmond segment began the summer of 2015.

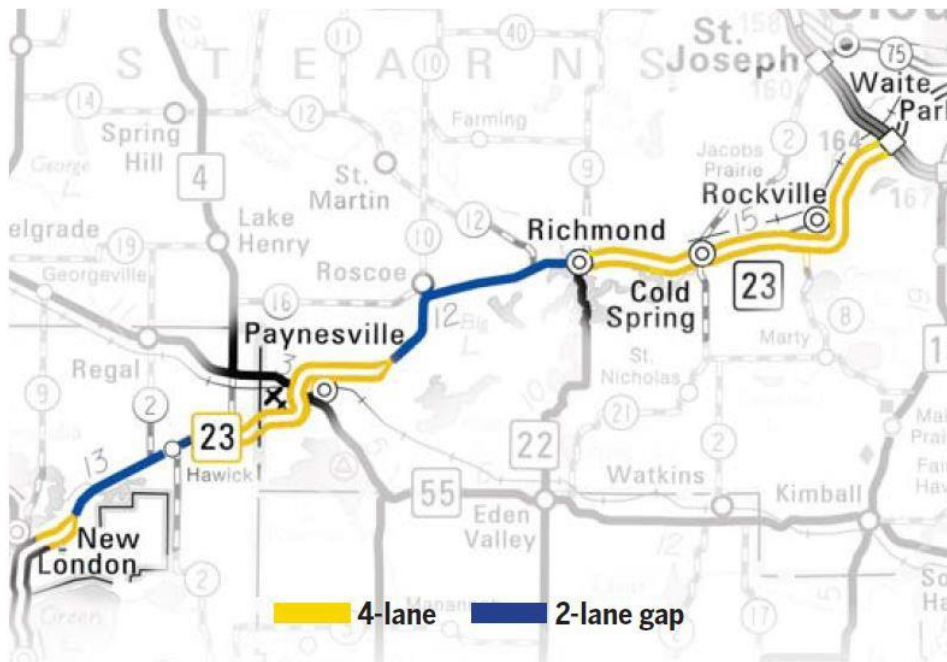
### Anticipated Timeline

June 2015	Begin environmental review
Summer 2015	Gather data (surveys, field reviews, location studies, etc.)
Sept-Dec 2015	Prepare & analyze alignment alternatives
Sept 2015	Public Open House #1
Dec 2015	Public Open House #2
Feb-May 2016	Finalize preferred alternative
May 2016	Public Open House #3
Jan 2017	Public Open House #4
Jan-May 2017	Finalize environmental review

### Estimated Project Cost

Highway 23 Gap	Construction	Wetland mitigation, utility agreements, detour costs	Environmental review, surveys, engineering, contract administration, etc.	Right-of-Way	Total Project Cost Estimate
Paynesville to Richmond	\$49M to \$65M	\$2M to \$3.5M	\$10M to \$13M	\$12M to \$17M	\$74M to \$98M

### Project Area



### Website

[www.dot.state.mn.us/d8/projects/hwy23gappaynesvillerichmond/index.html](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d8/projects/hwy23gappaynesvillerichmond/index.html)

### For More Information

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